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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWPORT PAGNELL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1953.

To the Chairman and Members of the Newport Pagnell
Urban District Council.

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1953. This is my 35th and last report that I shall make, as I propose to retire at the end of June 1954.

The Report follows the lines of previous years as requested by the Ministry.

I should like to thank the Members of the Council and the Officers present and past for their co-operation and assistance over the past 35 years. The relations have always been most cordial, and I very much regret the need to sever my connection with the Council.

SECTION A.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres).	3,432.
Number of Inhabited Houses.	1,486.
Rateable Value.	£24,211.
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate.	£95.
Estimated Population (Registrar General).	4,268.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

Total Births.	51.
Males Legitimate.	27.
Males Illegitimate.	1.
Females Legitimate.	23.
Females Illegitimate.	-

Estimated Population.	4,268.
Crude Birth Rate.	11.94.
Comparability Factor.	1.08.
Corrected Birth Rate.	12.87.

The Birth Rate for the whole of England & Wales.	15.5.
" " " " 160 County Boroughs.	17.0.
" " " " 160 Smaller Towns.	15.7.
" " " " London County.	17.5.

Still Births.

	Male.	Female.
Legitimate.	-	-
Illegitimate.	-	-

Deaths.

Total Deaths.	132. [⌘]
Males.	51.
Females.	81.

Estimated Population.	4,268.
Crude Death Rate.	30.92.
Comparability Factor.	0.67.
Corrected Death Rate.	20.71.

Death Rate for the whole of England & Wales.	11.4.
" " " " 160 County Boroughs.	12.2.
" " " " 160 Smaller Towns.	11.3.
" " " " London County.	12.5.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.	3.
Males Legitimate.	-
Males Illegitimate.	1.
Females Legitimate.	2.
Females Illegitimate.	-

⌘

It will be noticed that the number of deaths is very high. This is due to the mortality at Renny Lodge Hospital being included. These deaths are non-transferable although the large majority lived outside the District. It is estimated that the total deaths at Renny during the year were approximately 75. Males 23, Females 52.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

Laboratory Services.

The analyses of water from the Public Supply, and of milk, ice cream and other foods were for the most part carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton Hospital. Chemical Analyses of water were made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital Northampton. This work consists, not only of the specimens sent by the General Practitioners of the District, mostly throat swabs, but also specimens submitted by your Officers in dealing with Infectious Diseases. This is a most important function, and one that is used to the full. As an example, say a case of Dysentery is notified, specimens of all the contacts would be submitted for bacteriological examination, and thus any cases could be detected. Again in cases of food poisoning the service is most valuable, as by thorough bacteriological tests the cause of such cases can generally be determined, and is a great help to your Officers in dealing with such cases.

Ambulance Service.

This has been administered by the County Council since July 1948. Both Ambulances and Cars for sitting cases are provided for conveying patients to and from hospital.

For cases of Infectious Disease the Ambulance from the appropriate Isolation Hospital is used.

Nursing Facilities.

The District Nurses visit patients in their homes and their work adds much to the care and comfort of the patients they attend.

Hospitals.

The General Hospitals that serve the area are

Northampton General Hospital	This deals with most of the cases.
Bedford County Hospital	This is occasionally used.
The London Hospitals	Some cases are sent to London generally at the instigation of the Local Practitioners.
Renny Lodge Hospital	This is situated within the District and serves other areas besides this. It deals mostly with chronic cases and performs a most useful function.
Westbury Maternity Home.	This is also situated in the District, but, like Renny Lodge, receives patients from other areas. The Doctors attend their own cases, and there is a Consultant at Northampton where cases requiring further treatment can be sent.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water.

During the year the Council have maintained their two existing water supply sources at Caldecote and Ash Hill. The work of laying the main between the Ash Hill Pumping Station, and the Bucks Water Board System has been completed, and a limited quantity has been drawn from the Board's supply since 3rd December, 1953.

Prior to 3rd December, 1953, the two existing supplies had yielded quantities as follows:-

Caldecote.

Varied between 84,000 and 68,000 G.P.D.

Ash Hill.

Varied between 75,000 and 58,000 G.P.D.

Since 3rd December, 1953 it has been the practice to draw 40,000 G.P.D. from the Bucks Water Board Supply on each week day, and approximately 90,000 G.P.D. on Saturday and Sunday of each week. The supply from the Caldecote and Ash Hill sources has been accordingly reduced.

During the year there has been no shortage of water in the town, although during October the standing depth of water in the well at Ash Hill was reduced to 10 inches, and owing to the exceptionally dry Autumn the well had not recovered appreciably by the end of the year.

The construction of the proposed high level storage tank at Ash Hill has proceeded during the year, and it is expected that it will be available for use about June 1954. This tank has a working capacity of 240,000 gallons, and should be a useful addition to the water supply system of the district.

Quality.

Ash Hill.

During the year one chemical examination has been made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, which gave the following result

Appearance.	Clear & bright.	Date	17-8-53.
Colour.	Nil.	Turbidity	Nil
pH	7.5	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	• 160	Free Carbon Dioxide	12
Chlorine present as Chloride.	23	Total Solids.	510
Hardness Total	430	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.	265
Carbonate	265	Nitrite Nitrogen less than	0.01
Non-Carbonate	165	Oxygen Absorbed.	0.20
Nitrite Nitrogen	4.4	Residual Chlorine.	Absent
Ammonical Nitrogen	0.060		
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.020		
Metals Iron less than	0.03		
Other Metals	Absent.		

Report. This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character, and although the degree of hardness is not excessive it is sufficient to make the water disadvantageous for laundry and similar use. No excess of mineral constituents in solution is present and organic quality is very satisfactory.

Sixteen examinations for Bacteriological purity were made during the year by the Public Health Laboratories Service at Northampton, the results were as follows:-

	Probable Number of Coliform Bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37° C.	Probable Number of Faecal Coli.
	0 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
15-1-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
12-2-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
26-2-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
19-3-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
2-4-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
16-4-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
15-5-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
22-6-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
29-7-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
7-8-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
25-9-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
2-10-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
9-10-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
29-10-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
11-11-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "
27-11-53.	0 " " "	0 " " "

Report in each case - very satisfactory.

Caldecote Supply.

One chemical examination was made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories and the report reads as follows:-

Appearance. Bright with a very slight Date 17-8-53.
flocculent deposit of mineral debris.

Colour less than	10	Turbidity less than	3
pH.	8.1	Odour.	Nil.
Electric Conductivity.	390	Free Carbon Dioxide.	Trace.
Chlorine present as Chloride	25	Total Solids.	260.
Hardness Total	150	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.	210.
Carbonate	40		
Non-carbonate	110	Nitrite Nitrogen less than	0.01.
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.0	Oxygen absorbed.	0.93.
Ammonical Nitrogen	0.069	Residual Chlorine.	0.13.
Albuminoid Nitrogen.	0.049		
Metals Iron.	0.04		
Other Metals.	Absent		

Report. Sample reasonably clear and bright, faintly alkaline, free from metals apart from negligible trace of iron. Moderately hard. No excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. Very satisfactory organic purity.

Examinations from a Bacteriological point of view were made by the Public Health Laboratories Service, which were as follows:-

Probable Number of Coliform Probable number of
Bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, Faecal Coli.
37°C.

	2 per 100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
15-1-53.	2	0
12-2-53.	0	0
26-2-53.	0	0
19-3-53.	0	0
2-4-53.	2	0
16-4-53.	0	0
15-5-53.	0	0
22-6-53.	0	0
29-7-53.	2	0
7-8-53.	0	0
25-9-53.	5	0
2-10-53.	2	0
9-10-53.	0	0
16-10-53.	0	0
29-10-53.	0	0
11-11-53.	0	0
27-11-53.	0	0
11-12-53.	2	0

Reports for 15-1-53, 2-4-53, 29-7-53, 2-10-53, 11-12-53, stated that the water was satisfactory.

Report for 25-9-53 read as follows:- "Slightly suspicious count but no evidence of faecal pollution."

In all other cases the Reports stated that the water was very satisfactory.

The Caldecote Supply is derived from a catchment area adjoining the River Lovat to the south of the district. The River water is considered to be highly polluted, particularly in drought periods.

The crude water passing into the works must always be viewed with suspicion, and a constant check made on the efficiency of the treatment. The crude water is subjected to softening, precipitation and chloramine treatment prior to passing into the service mains.

Typical Bacteriological reports of the crude water are appended below:-

Probable Number of Coliform Probable Number of
Bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, Faecal Coli.
37°C.

11-11-53.	1600 per 100 ml.	40 per 100 ml.
27-11-53.	1600 per 100 ml.	350 per 100 ml.

Reports on both samples read as follows:-

"Very unsatisfactory water with evidence of faecal pollution."

Distribution System.

A considerable length of the towns water mains are at least sixty years of age, and are laid in the ground beneath the highways at an insufficient depth to avoid occasional

fracture by the heavy moving traffic of the district. The service pipes are mainly of galvanised steel whilst a few are of lead. In the clay ground of this district these service pipes are subjected to external corrosion. Much work is required to maintain a service of water waste detection and elimination.

During the year twenty nine ball hydrants have been replaced by hydrants of the screw down type. A further three are to be dealt with early in 1954, when the proposed new 6" distribution main is laid along the High Street. This operation will mean the complete removal of these unsatisfactory ball hydrants from the water distribution system.

Drainage & Sewerage.

The construction of the new Sewage Pumping Station at the Council Depot, and the new Sewage Disposal Works, was completed and officially put into commission by the Chairman of the Council on 24th September, 1953. This is the culmination of proposals originating prior to the last war years.

There has been no flooding of the built up area of the town during 1953.

Scavenging.

A weekly service of house refuse collection has been maintained throughout the year. Owing to shortages of manual labour an incentive system of payment by results was introduced in September, and the service has been functioning satisfactorily since that time.

The salvage of waste paper has been operated throughout the year.

SECTION D.

The construction of dwelling houses up to the quota permitted has proceeded on the Little Bury Field Site, and 16 Three Bedroom Type and 16 Two Bedroom Type houses were completed and occupied during the year. Four additional houses were under construction.

Three houses constructed by private enterprise were completed during the year, and a further six houses were under construction at the end of the year.

Houses erected by the Council.

Broad Street Estate (pre-war)	28	
(post-war)	<u>82</u>	
		110.
Little Linford Lane.		16.
Tickford Street (Bungalows).		16.
London Road.		14.
Tickford Street Houses.		2.
Queens Avenue Houses.		36.
Queens Avenue Bungalows.		6.
In course of construction (Planned or under		
construction) Bungalows.		6.
Houses.		8.
Total Dwellings.		<u>214.</u>

The subject of demolition of individual unfit houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense has under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936, concerned the department during the year, but no demolition orders were served.

SECTION E.

Food Premises.

No. of Premises in Various Categories.

General Provision Stores.	11.
Pastry Cooks & Flour Confectionery.	5.
Butchery & Cooked Meats.	5.
Dairies (Shop).	1.
Greengrocery, etc..	6.
Wet Fish Premises.	3.
Fried Fish Premises.	2.
Sweets and Sugar Confectionery etc..	9.
Catering Establishments (Non Licensed).	4.
Catering Establishments (Licensed).	5.
Licensed Premises (Including those mentioned above).	21.

The supervision of food production and distribution has been maintained during the year.

Slaughter Houses.

There are two licensed Slaughter Houses in the district, although during the year no slaughtering of animals for sale to the public has taken place.

The meat for the district has been supplied through the Ministry of Food Depot at Bedford. Complaints to the Transport Department have had to be made on the subject of handling of meat deliveries, and it is appreciated that slaughtering locally may be reintroduced during 1954.

The two licensed slaughter houses are considered to be inadequate both from the point of view of structure-layout and situation, and the owners have been informed of the deficiencies in the premises.

Milk.

There are only three retail purveyors of milk serving the general Public of the district, and only one supplying milk not heat treated.

Samples of milk have been taken regularly throughout the year for examination at the Laboratories of the Public Health Service, and the general standard found satisfactory. Two dairy premises exist in the town.

Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream is 28, and with the exception of one supplier, the ice cream is purchased from factories outside the district, and sold in the wrapper or container supplied by the manufacturer. One supplier manufactures Ice Cream in the district, and the records premises, equipment and materials are subject to inspection.

Condemned Food.

Condemned food is disposed of either by burning or burying at the Council's House Refuse Disposal Tip.

The following is a table of Carcasses inspected and condemned during the year.

Carcasses Inspected & Condemned in 1953.

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS.	COWS.	CALVES.	SHEEP & LAMBS.	PIGS.
Number killed if <u>known</u> Number inspected.	NIL	1	NIL	2	NIL
All diseases except T.B. Whole carcasses condemned.	NIL	NIL	NIL	1	NIL
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
T.B. only. Whole carcasses condemned.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned.	NIL	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
Percentage affected with T.B.	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases.

The following notifications were received during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	4 cases.
Dysentary	11 cases.
Poliomyelitis	2 cases (one paralytic the other non-paralytic).
Puerperal Pyrexia	3 cases.
Measles	102 cases.

The following table gives the age incidence of the various diseases.

Disease.	Scarlet Fever.		Dysentary		Paralytic Polio-myelitis		Non-Paralytic Polio-myelitis		Puerperal Pyrexia.		Measles.	
	Notified	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.
Age Period.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year											1	
1 - 2 Years				1							4	2
2 - 3 Years				1							4	4
3 - 4 Years											4	3
4 - 5 Years			1								14	4
5 -10 Years	4		1	4	2		1	1	1	1	29	31
10 -15 Years					1							1
15 - 20 Years											1	
20 - 35 Years									3			
35 - 45 Years				1								
45 - 65 Years												
Over 65 Years												
Total.	4		1	5	6		1	1	1	1	3	56

Tuberculosis.

The following notifications were received during the year:-

Pulmonary.

Males.	None.
Females.	3 aged respectively 22, 13 & 27.

SECTION G.

Committees.

The following is a schedule of duties delegated to the various Committees of the Council.

Public Health and Water Committee.

1. To consider and report to the Council on the following matters:-
 - (a) The Sanitary provisions of the Public Health Acts and the Housing Acts.
 - (b) Storage of petroleum and other explosives.
 - (c) Dairies, cow sheds, milk shops and ice-cream.
 - (d) Bakehouses, Butchers' shops, slaughter houses, meat inspection and unwholesome food and matters arising under the Shops Acts.
 - (e) All matters brought forward by the Medical Officer of health and the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.
 - (f) The employment of labour required by the Committee other than the appointment and control of clerical staff.
2. To take all necessary steps and proceedings for the immediate abatement of nuisances.
3. To exercise and perform in the name of, and on behalf of the Council all the functions, powers and duties of the Council under Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the Housing Act 1936.
4. To control and manage schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal, and waterworks.
5. To control and manage schemes for the collection and disposal of refuse and salvage.

Housing and Development Committee.

1. To consider and report to the Council on the following matter:-
 - (a) All matters relating to the provisions of the Housing Acts so far as they do not relate to sanitary matters.
 - (b) The provision of houses under the Housing Acts.
 - (c) Employments of labour required by the committee other than the appointment of clerical staff.
2. To manage the Council's Housing Estates including the selection of tenants.
3. To consider and determine applications for planning permission/development.
4. To consider and determine applications for building licences.
5. To consider and determine applications for the approval of plans submitted under the Building Byelaws.

General Purposes Committee.

To consider and report to the Council on the following matters:-

1. Parliamentary Bills of Legislation.
2. All other business of the Council not specifically included in the Order of Reference to any other Committee

3. The control and management of offices, properties available for letting (other than Council houses) public gardens, and buildings, bathing place, burial ground, cemetery and allotments.
4. Employment of labour required by the Committee, excluding the appointment and control of clerical staff.
5. To consider and advise upon the provision of playing fields or recreation grounds.
6. Civil Defence matters.

Part time Medical Officer of
Health.

Appointed.

Qualified.

Sanitary Inspector.

C.H.F. Bailey M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P.
July 1919.

1901.

J. F. Hopkin A.M.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.
Certificate of R.S.I. & Joint
Examination Joint Board,

Appointed.

Qualified.

April 1938.

December 1932.

Other Duties of Mr. J. F. Hopkin.

Highways Surveyor,

Sanitary Surveyor and Sewage Works Manager.

Water Engineer.

Scavenging Superintendant.

Council Housing and Council Property Maintenance Manager.

Clerk of Works for Council Housing Programmes.

Clerk of Works for Highways and other Capital Works Expenditure.

Supervisor of Burial Ground, Cemetery, Allotments, Playing
Fields etc. owned by the Local Authority.

Building Inspector and duties under Byelaws as to New Buildings.

Petroleum Officer.

Since June 1952 the Council have employed one Technical Assistant in the office of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

This concludes my Report

I am Madam & Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHAS. H. F. BAILEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

27th May, 1954.

